

A brief comment on this issue of media ownership. I am in my late 40s and old enough to remember the "old days" when the norm was locally-owned radio stations. The diversity of viewpoints, news commentary and music was much greater than today, which is sad for our democracy. Driving through Sacramento CA a few days ago, there were two radio stations playing identical ads and music emanating from Sacramento, both stations were owned by the conglomerate, Clear Channel. The increasing homogenization of the listening experience, combined with the debt service these companies face, will inevitably lead to a bland sameness, punctuated by an onslaught of advertisements. This will kill FM radio as we have known it.

The current concentration of ownership rules should be tightened -- not loosened.